

Kathryn Raymond  
Easton Maine  
LD 1619

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Maine Committee on Judiciary, I am Kathryn Raymond of Easton, Maine. I am writing in opposition to LD 1619 An Act to Improve Maine's Reproductive Privacy Laws.

It is frustrating how out of touch our government actually is with the needs of the people it serves. This addendum which will allow abortion past "viability" is nothing more than a way to play to the most radical of a political parties base. The majority of Americans, and Maine Residents exist in the middle of these radicals. Yet, legislation and lawmakers keep firing up these polar opposite radical parties. Shame on our law makers for encouraging this circus.

Abortions "later term" are incredibly unpopular with the majority of voters. They also impact approximately 1 % of the population (CDC). This change being conveyed as some life saving measure for women is a fluke. It will impact minimal women, and will do harm.

I am a nurse practitioner and serve hundreds of women. I have cared for many individuals who have felt they needed to make a decision to end their Childs life and did so. They never come to me empowered about the choice. They are broken, often depressed and full of shame.

Our laws are supposed to protect our rights, but they should also protect the individuals on the other end of them. Expanding abortion does not protect women. Yes, abortions done without access to medical care are a huge risk to women, but we should be asking ourselves what is driving women to feel so desperate to end their pregnancies?

Statistically most abortions occur in women aged 20-40 often with another child of their own. Largely it is due to financial strain and timing issues. It isn't, as we would want to believe, the result of rape or incest, nor teenagers. These make up very minimal of the abortions that occur (which shocked me when I read this as a young female who used to think she was pro choice).

What will save lives and improve our economy is supporting mothers. Having children is good for our economy. Instead of coming up with expensive ways to kill the next generation, why don't we find ways to support mothers? Women, who if they felt they had another choice would raise their babies and not be plagued by depression for the rest of their life. All over a choice our government told them should make them feel empowered as they practiced their right.

This continued push for expansion of abortion does not value women or their families. As a working Mom I can tell you America and Maine do not value mothers or our children. These type of proposed changes just further prove that. You are completely off target.